

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5089

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJ: MANFRED KRUG

REF: A-63

1. ACTOR-SINGER MANFRED KRUG LEFT THE GDR ON JUNE 20 TOGETHER WITH HIS WIFE, THREE CHILDREN AND HOUSEKEEPER FOLLOWING HIS OFFICIAL REQUEST TO MOVE OUT OF THE COUNTRY. HE HAD SPENT THE PREVIOUS WEEK PACKING HIS EFFECTS AND LOADING UP HIS TRAILER TO THE EXTENT THAT HE HAD EXCUSED HIMSELF FROM ATTENDING THE EMBASSY SCREENING OF "CUCKOO'S NEST," A FILM HE HAD WANTED VERY MUCH TO SEE.

2. ACCOMPANYING THE KRUG HOUSEHOLD AS IT DROVE TO THE SECTOR CROSSING POINT WAS A CARAVAN OF CARS FILLED WITH WELL-WISHERS FROM THE GDR, MOSTLY FELLOW ARTISTS, WRITERS AND FRIENDS. WHILE SOME REGRETTED HIS DEPARTURE, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH VESTED INTERESTS IN THREE FILMS HE HAS MADE AND WHOSE RELEASE IS NOW IN SERIOUS DOUBT, OTHERS WERE NOT SO SYMPATHETIC. THEY POINT OUT THAT HE HAS MADE MILLIONS IN THE GDR AND PROBABLY ABLE

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TO CONVERT SOME OF IT IN THE FRG. THES ARE CYNICAL ABOUT HIS MOTIVES, NOTING THAT HE WAS A WINNER OF THE GDR NATIONAL PRIZE AND HONORED IN THE GDR BY THE AUTHORITIES, AND THAT HIS CONSCIENCE AS AN ARTIST WAS AROUSED TOO LATE AND ONLY AFTER THE WOLF BIERMANN AFFAIR LAST NOVEMBER. SOME WONDER WHY HE WOULD TRADE HIS PRESENT STATUS AS A TOP STAR IN THE GDR FOR A MURKY FUTURE IN THE FRG.

3. AS KRUG HIMSELF HAS SAID (REF AIRGRAM), HE REFUSES TO TOLERATE THE TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON HIM BY THE GDR AUTHORITIES. ON THE EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE, HE GRANTED A BRIEF INTERVIEW ON WEST GERMAN-TV, AND WHEN ASKED WHY HE WAS LEAVING THE GDR, HE REPLIED SIMPLY, "BECAUSE THEY TREAT PEOPLE STUPIDLY." KRUG'S DEPARTURE WAS PREDICTABLY FRONT-PAGED IN THE WEST, AND AT FIRST IGNORED IN THE EAST, ALTHOUGH RIAS LISTENERS WERE AS USUAL WELL-INFORMED. FINALLY ON JUNE 23, ADN ISSUED A BRIEF RELEASE ANNOUNCING KRUG'S EMIGRATION TO WEST BERLIN AND OBSERVING THAT HE HAD REJECTED ALL OFFERS TO CONTINUE HIS VERSATILE ACTIVITIES IN THE GDR. POLANSKY

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Subject: MANFRED KRUG
TAGS: SHUM, GE, (KRUG, MANFRED)
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